



bluntnose minnow

Pimephales notatus

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| Kingdom: | Animalia |
| Division/Phylum: | Chordata - vertebrates |
| Class: | Osteichthyes |
| Order: | Cypriniformes |
| Family: | Cyprinidae |

Features

The bluntnose minnow is almost round in cross-section. It has a prominent band that extends along the sides toward the tail fin and ends in a spot at its base. It is pale olive green above with silvery-bluish sides and silvery beneath. A faint spot is present in the front portion of the dorsal fin. The snout overhangs the mouth slightly. Breeding males have a blackened head with large tubercles (bumps) arranged in three rows and a bluish body. Adults grow to about four inches long.

Natural History

The bluntnose minnow lives in small creeks and cannot tolerate muddy water. It is found throughout the state, usually in upper reaches of streams, but it is absent from much of the Missouri River drainage and the Mississippi River. It may be found in natural and constructed lakes. It eats algae, insect larvae, plankton (microscopic life forms), and rarely fish eggs or small fish. It spawns from spring to late summer. Adhesive eggs are deposited in masses on the

underside of floating logs, rocks, and other objects. Eggs develop into fry (small fish) in eight to 12 days, depending on water temperature.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide except for the southwestern one-third (Missouri River drainage)

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.